



# CallOut



ISSUE 12

THE PERIODICAL MAGAZINE OF THE IRISH MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2010

## mri attend austrian exchange program



**preventative sar**

PAGE 08

**eu exchange of experts**

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**heli ops (part 3)**

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# CALL OUTS



## 2010 Q2

### Call Out Summary Tables for 2010 Q2

The tables below do not contain the official number of incidents as this has not been verified by our Statistics Officer. The reader should not draw any conclusions about a team from this table in regards to the ability of the team, the terrain a team covers or the ability of the walkers/climbers in that area. The reader should also remember that this information is seasonal and will vary from quarter to quarter.

Note: The table on the right is an estimate of the number of incidents handled by Irish Mountain Rescue teams in 2010 Q2 and the PSNI SAR Team is included to reflect that. The total number of incidents handled across Ireland (N.I. and R.O.I.) was 85 in 2010 Q2. The total number of incidents handled by MRI was 75 in 2010 Q2.

TEAM	TOTAL	DATES
Donegal	14	07/04, 10/04, 20/04, 24/04, 30/04, 30/04, 11/05, 22/05, 25/05, 30/05, 05/06, 11/06, 22/06, 26/06
Dublin & Wicklow	8	08/04, 10/04, 16/04, 20/05, 23/05, 06/06, 26/06, 28/06
Galway	5	02/04, 02/04, 03/04, 10/04, 29/06
Glen of Imaal	6	06/04, 16/04, 20/05, 23/05, 26/06, 28/06
Kerry	7	03/04, 02/05, 13/05, 16/05, 17/05, 29/05, 12/06
Mayo	13	02/04, 16/04, 19/04, 29/04, 19/05, 21/05, 22/05, 23/05, 05/06, 11/06, 12/06, 25/06, 26/06
Mourne	4	30/04, 06/06, 14/06, 28/06
North West	9	01/04, 08/04, 28-29/04, 03/05, 19/05, 26/05, 12/06, 13/06, 19/06
SARDA	0	No report received
SEMRA	4	05/05, 16/05, 23/06, 28/06
Sligo Leitrim	5	13/04, 05/06, 25-26/05, 31/05, 26/06
Tramore	0	No incidents to report
PSNI Team	10	29/04, 19/05, 12-22/05, 20/05, 26/05, 27/05, 03/06, 11/06, 17/06, 19/06
Approx. IMRA Total	75	i.e. not including PSNI incidents

Historical	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average
Q1	43	55	62	99	65
Q2	47	41	72	75	58
Q3	79	77	121	0	92
Q4	33	58	90	0	60
TOTAL	202	231	345	184	275

# Call Out

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**Cover Photo**  
Courtesy of Martin McMullan, Mourne MRT

Gebhard Barbisch (front) Vorarlberg Landesleiter and a Vice President of the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR-CISA) demonstrates to some of the Irish delegates on the recent EU Exchange one of the Austrian techniques for self-rescue.

**Call Out** is published on a quarterly basis.

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 **Irish Coast Guard**  
GARDA CÓSTA na hÉIREANN



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Two magazines out in as many weeks... Not only have Jeremy (our production designer) and myself been busy putting "Call Out" together this week but last week we were putting the final touches to the conference programme for the Ireland and UK MR Conference about to take place at DCU this coming September. And the volunteers try and tell me they have it tough ;-)

A slighter smaller issue of "Call Out" this time around compared to previous issues but don't let that mislead you as to the quality of the articles in this issue!

We have two articles from the Mountain Rescue Association across the Atlantic. Firstly we have an article from Katya Hanson of New Jersey Search and Rescue on the topic of PSAR (Preventative Search and Rescue). Coincidentally, Katya spoke at our conference earlier this year on this very same topic. Secondly we have an article from a regular visitor to these shores, Rick Lorenz of Olympic Mountain Rescue, on International Cost Recovery in MR.

We have the third and final instalment from Jim O'Neill, a winch man with the Shannon-based Irish Coastguard Helicopter, on his series on Helicopter Operations. This time around it is on the subject of winching. It has been great having Jim's regular contributions and I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank him for his great articles. Hopefully, we can get him back in the future when the new helicopters come into duty.

Finally we have articles from our own members. We have a report on Reek Sunday from a relatively new member who experienced the Croagh Patrick operation for the first time. Mike Sandover from Kerry MRT has written the first instalment of a two part series on technical rigging as part of our Team Tech Tip regular feature. Former National Secretary and now Deputy Team Leader of SEMRA, Mary Mullins, has written a thought-provoking article on Professional Volunteers and issues for both Government and the Volunteers to consider. We have a report on our recent fact-finding trip to Austria as part of the return leg of the EU Exchange of Experts Programme and we continue with our Adventure Quencher series with the first Irish ascent of Lhakpa Ri.



Be safe out there!

## Hillwalkers Competition

Courtesy of Hillwalkers at Union Chandlery, Cork, we had a number of "Water Walker" hydration systems from Platypus to give away in Issue 11.

Hillwalkers, located at 4 Penrose Quay right in the centre of Cork, provide customer parking behind the store and have a great selection of outdoor gear with many of the leading brands.

To win one of these hydration systems, readers had to answer this question:

**"What is the highest peak in Co. Cork and what is its grid reference (using Irish Grid coordinates)?"**

The correct answer was Knockboy (Grid W005 620) and the following readers have won one of the hydration systems – Liam McKeever (SLMRT), David O'Brien and Grainne Ryan (SEMRA).



## Mountain Rescue Ireland launches Facebook and Twitter presence

Mountain Rescue Ireland (or IMRA) has just launched a Facebook and Twitter presence. The purpose of the presence is to promote not just what MRI does but also what the teams do and to spread the word to a larger audience. Many of the teams have their own websites and Facebook and Twitter pages to do their own promotion on, but the idea is that the MRI Facebook and Twitter page can also be used to promote team events or to highlight things that the teams feel are important. Most importantly, it also provides us with a mechanism to receive feedback from our members and our service users – the general public.

The Facebook page currently has a list of Irish Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs) and their websites, links to the teams' Facebook pages, and a selection of photos and videos showing various aspects of Mountain Rescue. The content will continue to develop over the coming months. The Twitter page currently contains 'tweets' about links to recent rescues.

The project to create our Facebook and Twitter presence was the brainchild of John Naughton, a member of our Supporter's Club. John, a 31 year old currently studying for his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science at the National College of Ireland in Dublin and a keen member of the An Oige Hillwalking Club, fancied a new challenge to get his teeth into. Asked why he took on the project for MRI he states "I believe that Facebook and Twitter are a brilliant way of getting your message out in an informal way and it was a missed opportunity for Mountain Rescue to be raising its profile. I also enjoyed the fact that MRI gave me total responsibility for the site which has made the project even more rewarding for me."

John walked closely with MRI's Development Officer, Paul Whiting "A number of our members had suggested to me that MRI should have a Facebook and Twitter presence. I knew this would end up being another responsibility and I knew I would never have the time or capacity to devote to the project to do it justice. When John approached me with the idea of developing the Facebook and Twitter pages, it was new territory for us, i.e., having a volunteer who wasn't a member of one of our mountain rescue teams take on a project for us."



MRI Volunteer John Naughton enjoying winter conditions in Co. Wicklow

John was a volunteer with two other charities 1) Camara which repairs old personal computers to send to Africa, and 2) SWICN which teaches inner city kids how use personal computers. Given this experience, Paul was confident that John would make a good volunteer for MRI, "John has shown great initiative on this project. He ensured that I'm setup as a dual administrator for the site along with himself, and he has also checked in with me to make sure that the site reflects the culture and ethos of Mountain Rescue. The project has been a great success for us in regards to providing extra functionality and extra capacity to MRI and we hope to be able to do similar projects with a new style of Mountain Rescue volunteer in the future."

In closing off, John and Paul would like to thank the Donegal MRT and Ray Bradfield of SEMRA for their help and permission in re-using some of their photos and content.

We look forward to the interaction with our members and supporters and the support that this new communications medium will bring to Mountain Rescue in Ireland. So to check out the pages and to join us, visit the following links.

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Mountain-Rescue-Ireland-IMRA/119872744702510?ref=sgm>  
**Twitter:** [http://twitter.com/Mtn\\_Rescue\\_IE](http://twitter.com/Mtn_Rescue_IE)

## SEMRA attends HSA "Keep Safe" Program

SEMRA was invited by the HSA to give a presentation as part of their new program called "KEEP SAFE" aimed at 5th and 6th class children. This event took place in Fermoy, Co. Cork as part of a nation wide roll out. The program involves state agencies and regional organisations with a safety remit to come together and talk to children with a common message "Keeping Safe". The aims of the day were to:

- 1) learn how to react to dangerous situations
- 2) foster good citizenship
- 3) learn how to recognize hazards and manage risks
- 4) learn how to stay safe i.e. road safe, water safety, mountain safety, home, fire, site safety, farm safety.

Each agency was asked to present a 10 minute interactive talk/scenario to a group of 10 children. When the 10 minutes were up a whistle was blown and the children moved on to another talk/scenario. Issues such as water safety, fire, farm safety, electricity, mountain, and personal safety were covered. As SEMRA only had 10 minutes, the presentation was on "Survival Rules". Each rule was printed up and laminated and beside each rule was a couple of photos to give a visual meaning to the rule, e.g. Rule 6 which is "LOOK BIGGER FOR THE SEARCHERS" so a photo was used of a team member waving two Tipperary flags. Students were then asked what could they use to do this if they were caught in such a situation. In two hours, the team educated 100 children about "Keeping Safe in the mountains". It was hard work but also thoroughly enjoyable.

Photo: Martin Neely, Donegal MRT



## Mountain Rescue Ireland endorses Satmap Active 10 GPS

In our first ever endorsement, Mountain Rescue Ireland has endorsed the Satmap Active 10 GPS. Irish Mountain Rescue teams have been testing the Satmap Active 10 for the past year because of its rugged specification, reliability, and ease-of-use.

Seamus Bradley, Chair of Mountain Rescue Ireland, commented: "We've been using the Satmap Active 10 for a year now and it has impressed our members greatly. We see this technology as something that will

make a real contribution to the life saving work our teams do every day. Having Ordnance Survey mapping linked to GPS in one robust unit means we can focus on the task of locating, accessing, stabilising and transporting a casualty to safety in the shortest time possible."

"The Active 10 also tracks our routes allowing for greater accuracy of reporting and recording search areas. It has proved itself particularly useful in areas where an area is split across multiple paper maps. The unit has also excelled in dark, wet and windy conditions when paper maps become difficult to use. The Satmap Active 10 really shows how technology can evolve to provide solutions which enhance our ability



## Mountain Rescue Ireland updates website.

Continuing on with our rebranding exercise, we have updated our website with our new logo. We took this opportunity to make some other minor changes to the website including:-

1. Splitting our national and team news
2. Showing how to find us on

to save lives." Satmap's detailed Ordnance Survey mapping is available on the following 'plug and play' SD cards for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland:

- Northern Ireland Whole (1:50k scale plus 1:25k hotspots of The Glens of Antrim, Sperrins, Strangford Lough, Lough Erne and Mourne). RRP €89.99 (£77.99)

- Republic of Ireland mapping is available on either a single country card, or separately by region (East, South and West) (1:50k scale). RRP from €84.99 (£74.99)

- Northern and the Republic of Ireland combined (1:50k scale plus 1:25k hotspots) RRP €199.99 (£159.99).

The Active 10 has won many awards in the UK including the Channel 5 Gadget Show 'Top rated GPS'; Trail Magazine 'Best in Test'; The Sunday Times 'Best Buy GPS' and What Mountain Bike 'Best GPS winner'. European awards include the Outdoor Magazine 'Editor's Choice'; (Germany) and an Oppad Outdoor Award (Netherlands).

For more details visit [www.satmap.com](http://www.satmap.com)



the social media channels – Facebook, Twitter and Ammodo

3. Listing our upcoming events
4. Launching our online store for our fundraising merchandise
5. Demonstrating our membership in the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (IKAR-CISA).
6. Performing some necessary maintenance to move to the latest version of our content management service.

The new look website was launched on Wednesday, 01-SEP-10.

## MRI attends signing of the contract for the new S-92 Coast Guard helicopters.

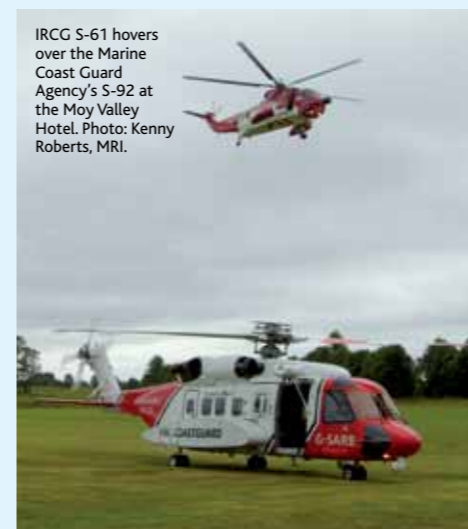
A delegation from MRI was also invited to attend the signing of the contract between Canadian Helicopter Corporation (CHC) and the Department of Transport / Irish Coast Guard (IRCG) for the next generation of Irish search and rescue helicopters. The event took place at the Moy Valley Hotel in Co. Kildare on July 22 and MRI was represented by Kenny Roberts (MRI Vice-Chair), Diarmaid Scully (MRI Representative to the Irish Aviation Forum) and Paul Whiting (MRI Development Officer).

Signing the contract on the day was Minister of Transport, Noel Dempsey T.D. and Director of the Irish Coast Guard, Chris Reynolds. Minister Dempsey took the opportunity to thank the wider search and rescue community

for the work that they do in serving the Irish public. Those attending included the various stakeholders of the Irish Coast Guard helicopters such as An Garda Síochána, the HSE, the Fire Service, Dept. of Defence, Civil Defence, Mountain Rescue CHC Staff, IRCG staff and volunteers.

An S-61 and S-92 were available on the day for people to view. The most obvious difference between the two from an MR perspective (besides the S-92 being considerably larger in size than the S-61) is the loading ramp at the rear of the aircraft. This ramp will have obvious advantages in loading and unloading casualties and in transporting MR personnel.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish the staff of both CHC and the IRCG all the best for change-over of aircraft and to thank-you for your continued support of Mountain Rescue.



IRCG S-61 hovers over the Marine Coast Guard Agency's S-92 at the Moy Valley Hotel. Photo: Kenny Roberts, MRI.



Launching our new logo and donation boxes on Reek Sunday. L to R: Paul Whiting (MRI Development Officer), Dick Harnedy (Mayo PRO), Dave Slattery (SEMRA), Seamus Bradley (MRI Chair) and Gerry Christie (MRI PRO). Photo: www.valeriosullivan.com

## Official Launch of our new logo and donation boxes.

We used Reek Sunday as an opportunity to officially launch our new logo and donation boxes. As reported previously in the Mountain Log, the new logo was chosen so it was immediately obvious to the public what we do – providing rescue services in the outdoors – something that the old logo did not do. The colours chosen are representative of the Irish mountain environment – green for grasses and heather, grey for stone and white for snow (when we're lucky enough to get it).

The new donation boxes have been chosen with the same goal in mind – to make it easy for the public to know that the charity they are supporting provides rescue services in the

outdoors. The boxes are in the shape of the iconic 4x4 vehicle used by our teams all over this island. The long-sides of the base of the donation box are marked up with the details of the team you are supporting when you place a donation in the box and the short-sides of the base demonstrate that the team is a member of Mountain Rescue Ireland.

The boxes are an initiative of MRI to support and assist the teams in meeting the financial demands placed on our voluntary teams. All donations going into the boxes go directly to the teams so keep your eyes open for the boxes in pubs and shops around Ireland and please support the teams generously. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Clann Credo who provided us with the social financing to make this project possible.



MRI members at the OSi Launch (L to R): Irene Codd (SEMRA), Wayne Jenkins (Dublin & Wicklow) Paul Whiting (MRI), Declan Cunningham (Dublin & Wicklow), Hugh Mangan (OSi), Colm Quinn (Glen of Imaal) and Maureen O'Brien (SEMRA). Present at launch but missing from photo: Kenny Roberts (MRI Vice-chair) and Jimmy Barry (SEMRA). Photo: Jimmy Barry (SEMRA)

## MRI attends launch of the OSi New Discovery Series Maps.


Last year, MRI was invited by Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) to take part in a consultation with various other emergency services regarding the release of the 4th Edition of the Discovery Series Maps and possible conversion of the maps from Irish Grid to Irish Transverse Mercator. Based on feedback received during the consultation from a number of stakeholder groups other than the emergency services, OSi made the decision not to convert the maps over for the 4th Edition. During this consultation process, MRI took the opportunity to suggest two additions to the new series. The first was a "Safety Statement" in collaboration with Mountaineering Ireland which the OSi could place on each map. The second was a new symbol for Mountain Rescue bases and to have these shown on the new maps where appropriate.

OSi kindly provided us with a number of tickets to the launch of the 4th Edition of the Discovery Series Maps at the new Aviva Stadium (aka Lansdowne Rd) on June 24. We held a competition on our website for both our members and supporters and a number of people were fortunate enough to attend the launch. The day started with displays from a number of OSi partners including Mappyx (the new GIS partner for Mountain Rescue England and Wales), Viewranger, GeoLives and Garmin. Then the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Mary Hanafin T.D., officially launched the new maps and she was followed by Irish adventurer Pat Falvey who gave a talk titled "From Carrauntoohil to Everest". The day concluded with a lunch and a tour of the new Aviva Stadium.

## Reek Sunday.

Our National Operation at Reek Sunday on the 25-JUL-10, saw over 100 members of Mountain Rescue Ireland provide coverage on Croagh Patrick for 14 hours from approximately 05:00 to 19:00. During this period, the mountain rescue parties handled 17 casualties on the top of the Reek. Unfortunately due to the poor visibility created by low

cloud and a constant drizzle, the Irish Air Corps was not able to support mountain rescue as in previous years. As a result, all casualties that needed hospitalisation had to be carried to the bottom of the mountain where they were met by ambulance and transported to hospital. Our thanks go to the Mayo Mountain Rescue Team for once again hosting all teams in one of the highlights of our calendar year.



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